

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 H-01 PA-01 ICAE-00 INR-10 NSCE-00
BIB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 /041 W
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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0344
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, GW
SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT RFE/RL MAY BE TRANSFERRED
TO US

1. FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN MAY 17 EDITION OF MUNICH
MERKUR REPORTS THAT US CONGRESS IS GIVING CONSIDERATION
TO MOVING RFE/RL OPERATION HERE, OR AT LEAST SOME
PORTIONS THEREOF, BACK TO THE US. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS
THAT NEXT MONTH THE "DIRECTORS" OF RFE/RL AND RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIALS OF THE BIB WILL DISCUSS WHETHER RADIOS COULD
SAVE MONEY BY TRANSFERRING AT LEAST SOME FUNCTIONS TO
THE US. ROBERT REDLICH, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR
RFE/RL, IS CITED AS SOURCE FOR THIS PORTION OF ARTICLE.

2. MERKUR ITEM ALSO ALLEGES THAT UNNAMED "OBSERVERS"
BELIEVE THAT TRANSFER OF STATIONS TO US WOULD BE A FURTHER
SIGN OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REDUCTION OF US ENGAGEMENT IN
EUROPE BECAUSE THE BUDGETARY SAVINGS OBTAINED FROM
MOVING THE STATIONS TO THE US WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
COMPARABLE TO THE DECLINE IN QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMS.
ITEM ALSO CLAIMS THAT MOST RFE/RL EMPLOYEES HERE WOULD
ELECT TO REMAIN IN GERMANY IF THE STATIONS SHOULD BE
MOVED TO US.

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3. RFE/RL MANAGEMENT HERE HAS INFORMED THE CONGEN THAT
DPA IS CARRYING SHORT FACTUAL STORY BASED ESSENTIALLY ON
PORTION OF MERKUR ARTICLE SUMMARIZED IN PARA ONE OF THIS
MESSAGE. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM DIE WELT AND OTHER
NEWS MEDIA HERE, RFE/RL MANAGEMENT IS CONFIRMING ACCURACY
OF INITIAL PORTION OF MERKUR ARTICLE (PARA ONE) AND PLAY-

ING DOWN REMAINDER OF IT AS INACCURATE AND SPECULATIVE.

4. RFE/RL MANAGMENT HAS CABLED REPORT ON MERKUR ARTICLE
TO KINGSLEY OF RFE/RL WASHINGTON OFFICE. DEPARTMENT AND
BIB MAY WISH TO CONTACT HIM FOR FURTHER DETAILS. BETTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, ETEL, GE, US, RL, RFE
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